



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFLCIO before the Planning and Development Committee February 13, 2013

Senator Cassano and Representative Rojas and members of the Committee my name is Lori Pelletier and I am here on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions representing over 200,000 members of the Connecticut AFLCIO who live and work in every city and town in this great state.

We are opposed to **Proposed H.B. No. 5724 AN ACT PROHIBITING MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES FROM SERVING ON CERTAIN MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES.** (PD). We believe any bill which restricts any citizen from being involved in their government is a bad idea. In 1983 the Mayor of Waterbury fired one of the members of the city fire department because that firefighter decided to challenge the mayor in an election. Many of you knew Tom Carusello, he was that firefighter and he was the last person who fell under a "Hatch" act situation. This bill would restrict city residents from being involved in their city government, just because of their employer. These residents pay taxes, volunteer, and deeply care about their community and this is how we say thanks?

Every legislative body has situations where members need to recuse themselves because of an issue under debate or vote. Nothing prohibits the same recusal for those at the municipal level. This bill is not the answer to individual problems at the municipal level, it's a broad brush approach and we urge this committee to reject this proposed legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

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